

Summer 2014

Macalester Today Summer 2014

Macalester College

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Macalester

Today

SUMMER 2014

First-Gen

Long a hidden population at Macalester, first-generation college students are declaring themselves and supporting each other as never before. PAGE 16



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Gloria Perez '88 leads a program that's making a big difference to impoverished single mothers and their kids.

First-Gen 16

Long a hidden population at Macalester, first-generation college students are declaring themselves and supporting each other as never before.

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From lions to the Louvre, Mac students see a lot of the world when they study abroad.

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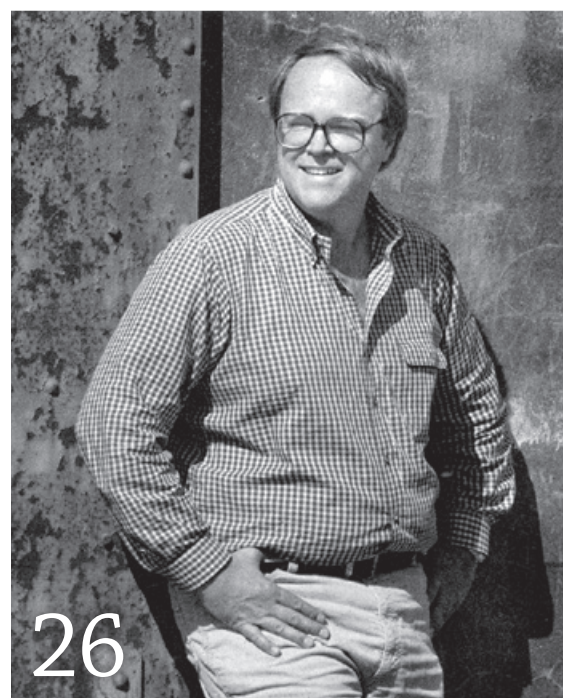
A photographer since his teens, Jim Alinder '63 is one of the world's leading experts on a beloved Western artist.

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Professors aren't the only ones who make a big impression on Mac students.

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Christopher Tassava '95 took on the extreme cold, biking his way to seventh place in a frosty Minnesota race.



ON THE COVER: First-gen students (from left): Tyler Skluzacek '16, Ian Calaway '16, Jinath Tasnim '16, and Christian Smith '15
(Photo by Craig Bares)

JOAN ADAMS MONDALE HALL OF STUDIO ART



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*Art of biology, new star world, Mondale art building,
and more*

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Arabic adjustment

I believe your “Arabic By The Numbers” (Winter 2014) piece is incorrect in stating that Arabic was first offered at Macalester six years ago. I remember attending an Arabic class as a guest in 1985. A good friend of mine was the Macalester native speaker, the equivalent of a TA, for the class.

Matt Tebbutt '89
Little Canada, Minn.

Name change

You recently ran an obituary for Cathy E. Kaudy (Winter 2014), a staff member for more than 20 years at Macalester. Cathy was known on campus as Cathy Gilchrist—her professional name, so to speak. When she worked for me in the Learning Center she supervised as many as 25 students a year, few of whom knew her as Cathy Kaudy.

Charles Norman
St. Paul, Minn.

Kudos

As I called in my yearly gift to the Annual Fund, I mentioned my appreciation for the fine quality of your publication. For the last

year as I've finished each magazine, I've sent them on to our granddaughter Carmen Garson-Shumway, a high school senior in Hilo, Hawaii. She has applied to Mac and she and her family had a very welcoming visit to campus last summer. The magazine, an exciting voice of Macalester College, has also inspired me to schedule a campus tour the next time I travel to Minneapolis/St. Paul. Many thanks for the good work so many people do to publish a beautiful and interesting magazine.

Kathy McKay Shumway '60
Inverness, Illinois

The latest copy of *Mac Today* arrived in my mailbox today—and it is awesome. Congratulations on a fabulous issue. Although, to be fair, I am biased because my daughter, art major **Ju-**

lia Sillen '14, appears on the cover and inside the magazine. She loves the new studio art building. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Tina Barsby
Amherst, Mass.

Corrections

- The rooftop image of an Italian city featured in President Brian Rosenberg's most recent column (“Household Words,” Spring 2014) was actually Siena rather than Florence. Our apologies for the error, which was the editor's.

- The woman shown on the far left of a raft in the sea outside Athens (“Innocents Abroad,” Spring 2014) was not identified in the photo caption. She is **Margo Holen Dinneen '65**.

- The photo of **Karen Kunzman North '64**, printed on the bottom right of page 12 (“Innocents Abroad,” Spring 2014) was taken in Tokyo rather than in Hong Kong.

- The class year of Earl Bowman, who was shown in a recent football photo (“Fall at Macalester,” Fall 2013), was incorrectly identified in the photo caption. The late Dr. Bowman was a member of the Class of 1950.

Sweet TWEETS

Michael McGaghie @MichaelMcGaghie
I leave tomorrow for Shanghai. Very grateful to ACDA National and Macalester for this chance to study and teach in China.

Mac Pipe Band @MacPipeBand
Attending a class dinner tonight for the Macalester Reunion? You'll be led by one of our pipers tonight!

Alex Conover @alex_cono
Coolest alum-dedicated object on any campus (Kofi Annan Ping Pong Table). What a legend.

Matt Haugen @P2coach
3 Macalester Track & Field Athletes are on to the NCAA Championships! (the most since 1986)

R Thompson @TheFrugalMrsT
“Patiently” waiting with Farmington 7th graders for the African Drum Ensemble at Macalester College to begin.

Erik Christensen @erikchrist1973
The only reason I was able to attend Macalester College was because of their incredibly generous financial aid...

Joe Klein @joeklein630
Seeing everyone post their acceptance letters warms my heart so much. Welcome to the club, #Mac18 – you've got a great 4 years ahead of you.

LETTERS POLICY

We invite letters of 300 words or fewer. Letters may be edited for clarity, style, and space and will be published based on their relevance to issues discussed in *Macalester Today*. You can send letters to llamb@macalester.edu or to *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.

Turn and Face the Strange*

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

President Brian Rosenberg delivered the following remarks to the members of the Class of 2014 at their May 17 Commencement.

A few weeks ago I had breakfast with one of Macalester's most successful alumni, someone who rose through effort and skill to the very highest levels of his profession and has remained there for a long time. He is over 70 now, approaching his 50th reunion, yet he pursues his life and his work with more passion and energy than most people decades younger. The field in which he excels has been transformed and transformed again by technology over the course of his career and today bears little resemblance to the world into which he stepped when he left the college—yet he continues to thrive and not just to keep up, but to lead.

Naturally I wanted to know his secret. How has he maintained his enthusiasm, his edge, his role as a thought leader?

"I embrace change." That's what he told me. "I love change; I don't shrink from it. I see it as an opportunity and not as a threat." In fact, he said, the most important lesson that Macalester can teach its students is to welcome change and not to fear it.

I told him that I was going to steal—or gratefully borrow—his idea, and so here I am. Consider it stolen.

Welcoming change is far easier said than done for all of us, regardless of our age or worldview or political orientation. Change, especially change that has more than a trivial impact on our lives, always involves an element of loss in that we are bidding farewell to an element of our being to which we had become accustomed. Anatole France—a poet, journalist, and novelist—wrote that "All changes,

even the most longed for, have their melancholy; for what we leave behind us is a part of ourselves; we must die to one life before we can enter another." Granted he must not have been a lot of fun at parties, but he makes a profound point, one that explains why we hold on with passion and sometimes desperation to the familiar and comfortable, even when we know that its alteration is inevitable. We are not hardwired to embrace change.



President Brian Rosenberg at the 2014 Commencement ceremony

This is not to say of course that all change is necessarily for the better. One of the features of change is its almost limitless variety. From some kinds you will benefit and from some kinds you will not. Over some kinds you will have a degree of control and over others you will have none. Some will be reasonably predictable and some will appear to have come out of nowhere. Some will break your heart and some will lift your spirit to the sky. The only certainty, the only consistency, is that change will happen and that you will be well served by responding to it with thoughtfulness and energy.

So, I've wondered, what can Macalester do, what do we hope we have done over the past four years, to prepare you for change? Maybe we've taught you some history, so that you

know that what exists today has not always existed and that change is a constant in all places and all cultures. It's surprising how many people act as if this is not the case. Maybe we've taught you about quantum physics and the fundamental limitations

on the certainty of all knowledge. Maybe we've taught you through the study of art or philosophy or psychology or anthropology to understand that one person's sense of a stable world is almost never the same as another's. Maybe, and most important, we have provided you with a set of skills that will better allow you to adapt and thrive in the face of unforeseen change: the ability to innovate, to create, to think critically, to form new connections. This set of skills will prove more valuable over the course of your lives than anything you know or think you know right now.

Remind yourselves, at moments of the most dramatic change and—usually—stress, that you possess those skills. They are in there, and you can call upon them to manage the sometimes radical transition to the new.

I always like to balance out the nature of my quotations, so I figure if I threw Anatole France at you, I should complement that with something a little more in the vein of rock and roll. So I'm going with David Bowie, who for all I know sounds to you the way Frank Sinatra sounded to

me when my parents played his songs in the kitchen. I hope not. But here's Bowie:

*Pretty soon now you're gonna get older
Time may change me
But I can't trace time
I said that time may change me
But I can't trace time*

Indeed, you can't trace where time will take you, but you can strap yourself in for the ride so that you're not terrified or tossed from the car—so that it's an adventure and not an ordeal. My hope is that we've made it at least a little bit easier for you to do so. ■

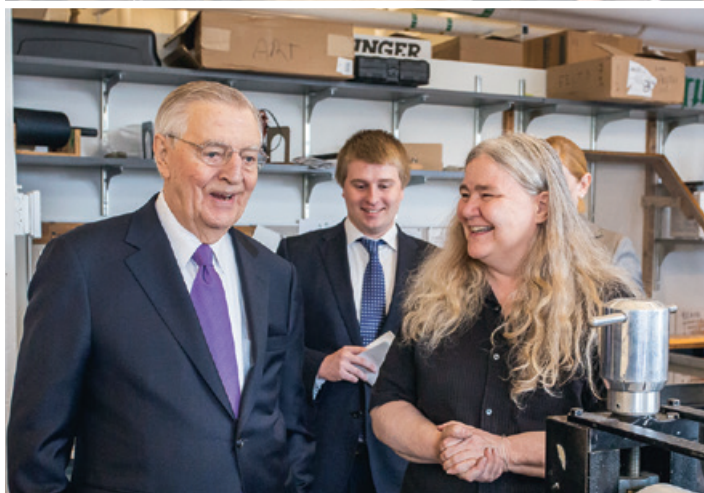
BRIAN ROSENBERG is the president of Macalester College.

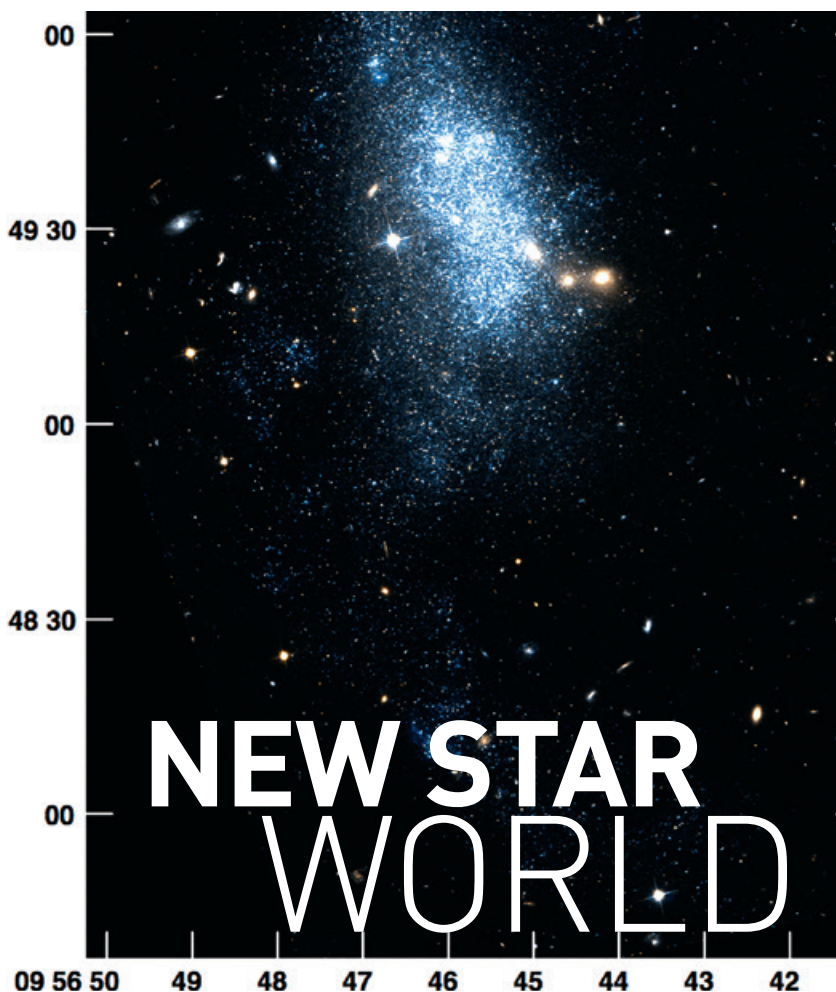
* David Bowie

MONDALE HALL



The newly remodeled and expanded arts building was officially named the Joan Adams Mondale Hall of Studio Art at a dedication ceremony May 5. Former U.S. Vice President **Walter Mondale '50** (right), widower of the late **Joan Adams Mondale '52**, spoke at the ceremony, which was also attended by many of the Mondales' family members and friends.





PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY major **Erik Alfvén '15** (Shorewood, Wis.) is celebrating the discovery of a new galaxy announced in a paper he co-authored with Macalester astronomy professor John Cannon and other investigators.

The *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, which published the paper in May, is a journal for the rapid release of high-impact results deemed worthy of swift dissemination to the scientific community.

Working with Cannon last summer, Alfvén used data from the Very Large Array radio telescope in New Mexico to create three-dimensional images of the neutral hydrogen in nearby galaxies. The goal was to determine the nature of curious objects called “H-alpha dots”—regions where new stars are being born, but apparently located outside the nearest normal galaxy. “The goal was to see if there were any signs of a hydrogen bridge between the star-forming regions (the H-alpha dots) and a parent galaxy,” says Alfvén.

This spring, Alfvén continued working on a related project that culminated in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters* article. The mystery they were investigating had to do with why the relatively massive galaxy DDO 68 contained so little gas enriched with heavy elements (“metals”), when most galaxies this massive are more metal-rich. One possible answer is that metal-poor material was coming from another source.

They discovered a previously unknown companion galaxy to DDO 68, as well as a bridge of hydrogen gas that connects the two, says Cannon.

The process of scientific discovery has left a lasting impression on Alfvén: “My ‘aha’ moment was when I saw the first galaxy image that I made from scratch. It reminded me why I got into this field in the first place and why this stuff is so exciting. I did something that real astrophysicists do.”



Award Winners

Class of 2014 graduates **Jon Dahl**, **Rebecca Galey** (second from left), and **Charles Nesler** (far left) received Fulbright English Teaching Assistant awards to work in Germany, and **Anne Huber** (far right) received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant award to work in Brazil. **Sarah Rasmussen** (second from right) received a Fulbright grant to conduct research in Nepal.

Sylvia Thomas '14 (center) was awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, a one-year grant for independent study and travel outside of the United States. This year the foundation awarded 43 fellowships, chosen from more than 700 applications. Thomas, a geography major, will study community radio in Bolivia, Bangladesh, and Tanzania. Later she hopes to study international reporting in graduate school.

Summit to St. Clair

CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY



BY **GEORGIA CLOEPFIL '14**

ONE SOMERSAULT and two and a half rotations. Backwards.

In the space of just one meter above the pool's surface, **Renee Jordan '14** combined these movements to win the Division III Diving National Championship in March, followed by a fourth place finish in the three-meter competition later that weekend in Indianapolis. Her right arm ached from a recent injury, her hand bore internal scars of shattered bones and her mind battled exhaustion and mounting pressure as she approached the board for one of her final collegiate dives. But she felt ready. "I've been preparing for nationals all year," she said. Really, she's been preparing for four years.

In part, this preparation began with a break sustained during competition. As a sophomore, while warming up for the conference championships, Jordan broke all the metatarsals in her right hand, an injury that sidelined her for the remainder of the season. She needed time off to collect herself and regain her confidence. Jordan went to Florida to train with a coach who has experience working with divers with hand injuries. There, she started from scratch. It wasn't until Decem-

ber that Jordan completed the dive that had injured her: a reverse $1\frac{1}{2}$ pike.

During most meets, between her dives Jordan can be found by herself with her eyes closed, leaning against a back wall. She imagines herself still, and then moments later sees her arms move up as she dips forward. Her surroundings dissolve in an instant: the too-clean smell of chlorine, her jittering competitors, and the oppressive humidity. This is visualization, an important aspect of her preparation.

When she dives, her body follows her mind. Imagination and practice come together each time she leaves the board.

At the championship, her body carried with it all the memories of her four years of collegiate diving. Before her final dive, Jordan knew she was in second place, needing 48 points to win the national championship—in her words, "a tall order."

To win, she needed to attempt a dive with an extremely high level of difficulty. "I have had trouble on this dive a lot before," she says. "I remember walking up to the board and thinking, 'Well, you've just got to do the best

dive you can do. This is it.'"

The crowd watched as Jordan turned, flipped, and with near silence, slipped into the pool. As she hit the water, Jordan knew she had completed the dive to the best of her ability. And as she rose from the pool to greet the cheering crowd, her enthusiastic coach and family, and a waiting scoreboard, the feeling was verified. This time, her best was enough to make her the best in the country.

Soon, Jordan will decide between continuing her diving career or focusing on her other passion, chemistry. But for now, the decision can wait, as she enjoys the experience of winning a national title.

Excerpted from The Mac Weekly (March 28, 2014).

CLASS OF 2018*

570 Members

54 Countries
Represented

TOP SIX STATES: Minn., Ill.,
Calif., Wis., Mass., N.Y.

64% Top 10 percent
of high school
class

36%

Admit rate

42+D.C. Number of states
represented

14% International
students

27%

of U.S. students are
students of color

* As of June 15, 2014

Last Words

Just before the Class of 2014 crossed the stage at Commencement, we asked graduating seniors what they will remember best about life at 1600 Grand.

Rudy Henriquez

Hometown: Daly City, Calif.

After Mac: Yelp, Account Executive

"The most vivid image for me is waking up on Saturdays on campus and hearing the bagpipes."

Audrey Kohout

Hometown: Park City, Utah

After Mac: Target, Technology Leadership Program

"When I look back at my time at Macalester, I'll remember walking home during finals at 3 a.m. in -20-degree weather with my friends and just loving it—no, *hating* it."

Ruxi Zhang

Hometown: Beijing, China

After Mac: PhD program in political science, Stanford University

"I lived in 30 Mac for three years, and one of the most important reasons was the grand piano in the lounge. Playing that piano is what I enjoyed doing in my free time."

Benjamin Lavin

Hometown: New York City

After Mac: Peace Corps, Benin

"It's really the people I'll remember best—that and playing intramural and pick-up soccer."



THE ART OF BIOLOGY

Karina Li '14 (La Quinta, Calif.) is an artist and biology major. But the artist part of her was hidden until, one day at the Ordway field station, biology professor Mark Davis heard Li talking with a fellow artist who was exhibiting at Mac's Smail Gallery. After he saw her portfolio, he encouraged Li to exhibit her own work there. Thus inspired, she worked with applied mathematics professor Chad Topaz to create art that is a visual expression of swarm theory. Says Li, "I'm thrilled that this fall my work will be exhibited in the same gallery where many well-known artists have exhibited."

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

THE MACALESTER INVESTMENT group might sound like a buttoned-up group, but actually this student organization welcomes anyone interested in learning about investing or careers in finance, investment banking, or consulting.

When the group was founded in 2001, economics professor Karl Egge asked alumni to contribute to a fund the students could use for gaining investment practice. The alumni responded by donating \$21,000—which MIG has since grown to almost \$40,000. Any member can pitch a stock to MIG, but buying or selling is only done by group consensus. Recently there were 10 to 15 active and another 20 or so registered members.

They also invest imaginary money. Everyone gets \$100,000 of fake money to invest in a stock simulation game. Stocks reflect the actual market activity, and the year's most successful virtual investor wins a chalice.

MIG leaders teach Excel skills, review market news, demonstrate modeling, and prepare an interview question of the day for meetings. Members help each other by conducting mock interviews and reviewing resumes. MIG also collaborates with Macalester Consulting Group and the economics honor society Omicron Delta Epsilon on alumni networking events.



Investment club members: Jose Caballero Ciciolli '15 (Asuncion, Paraguay), Joe Dykema '14 (Roseville, Minn.), Xiang Yuan "Henry" Yang '14 (Toronto, Canada), and Papa Diop '14 (Thies, Senegal).



Physician and global health guru **Paul Farmer**, who cofounded the international nonprofit Partners in Health, spoke at the Class of 2014 Commencement ceremony on May 17. Farmer book-ended these students' time on campus, having also spoken at their opening convocation freshman year.

PHOTOS: DAVID J. TURNER



MAC DISTANCE RUNNER **Kimber Meyer** is already a two-time MIAC champion and three-time All-American—and she just finished her first year of college.

Wrapping up a remarkable year with a fourth-place finish in the 5,000-meter run at the Division III national track and field championships in late May, Meyer (Naperville, Ill.) became the only first-year student in the nation this year to earn All-American distinction in cross-country, indoor track, and outdoor track. “It has been such a joy to watch Kimber grow and develop into one of the very best Division III distance runners in the nation,” says cross-country/track coach Betsy Emerson.

That trajectory started last fall during cross-country season, thanks in part to a large group of senior runners who guided Meyer and other first-years in their transition to college. Meyer “just got better with each competition,” Emerson says, and finished fourth at the MIAC championships, leading the team to its highest conference finish since 1999.

Then Meyer placed 22nd at the national cross-country championships for her first All-American title. “That race was exciting—everyone went out really fast, and I just tried to stay with the pack and planned to move up during the race,” Meyer

says. “Toward the end, people were yelling that I could be All-American—but they were also yelling that other runners were trying to catch me. After that race, I felt on top of the world.”

The highlights kept accumulating throughout the year. After starting indoor track by racing shorter distances to improve her leg turnover and finishing kick, Meyer earned her first conference title in the 3,000-meter run, then placed fifth in the same event at the national indoor meet.

Then, at the outdoor MIAC championship’s 5,000-meter run, she won her second conference title, finishing nearly 45 seconds ahead of the runner-up. At the national outdoor track and field championship, she ran 5,000 meters in 16:37.16—an average pace of 5:21 per mile, another personal record for Meyer, and just nine seconds off the school record set 29 years earlier. Before the outdoor national meet, she was named Macalester’s First-Year Female Athlete of the Year.

Those accomplishments are even more impressive given that Meyer hasn’t even declared a major yet. She is spending the summer at home, taking two weeks off from running before training for her second cross-country season—and the rest of what Emerson calls a bright future.

MAC REUNION 2014

More than 1,300 alumni and friends enjoyed mostly sunny weather at the Macalester Reunion June 6–8, 2014. Special reunions were held for MacJazz and the 1960s travel program SWAP.



PHOTOS BY DAVID J. TURNER



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

2014 Distinguished Citizens

David Lanegran '63
Wayne Potratz '64
Beth Bergman '73
Elizabeth Richards '83

Young Alumni Award

Alex Mas '99

Charles J. Turck Global Citizen Award

Paula Hirschhoff '66

Catharine Lealtad Service to Society Award

James Bennett '69

Alumni Service Award

Dean Verdoes '64

M Club Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Jack Roach '57, basketball, tennis
1962 and 1963 hockey teams
Lee Schafer '83, football
Matt Highfield '94, soccer
Megan Auger '00, cross country,
track & field





LOOKING AHEAD TO REUNION 2015 JUNE 5-7, 2015

Milestone Years

1965
1970
1975
1985
1990
1995
2005
2010

Golden Scots

1960
1955
1950



WEB CONNECT:
macalester.edu/reunion



Helping Families Succeed

As executive director of the Jeremiah Program, **Gloria Perez '88** leads a nonprofit making a big difference to impoverished single mothers and their kids.

BY JAN SHAW-FLAMM '76 → PHOTOS BY DAVID J. TURNER



More than 16 million U.S. children live below the federal poverty line, most of them with their single mothers. That's equal to the entire populations of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Alabama—three states worth of poor children. How can they hope to escape the multigenerational cycle of poverty?

Through education and employment, according to **Gloria Perez '88**, president and CEO of the Jeremiah Program, a nonprofit that has helped some 500 Twin Cities women and children achieve financial independence through a combination of affordable housing, high-quality early childhood education, life skills and empowerment training, and career track education. The Jeremiah Program says it is dedicated to “transforming families from poverty to prosperity two generations at a time.” And that’s not just a catchy tag line to Perez.

She was nine years old when her social worker father died from cancer at age 46. Suddenly, her family’s stable life in a working class San Antonio, Texas, neighborhood was on the line. Her teenaged sisters stumbled into an early marriage and an abusive relationship, but Gloria, in one of life’s decisive moments, made a commitment to herself: “That will not be me.”

When Perez was in elementary school, her mother went back to college. During those years they ate dinner together, and then her mother attended night classes while Perez spent her evenings in the library. The experience was life-changing for her. By the time she was a senior in high school, Perez had begun to research colleges. She admired Minnesota’s education policy and enrolled at another liberal arts college in the state that wasn’t a good cultural fit. Soon she had transferred to Macalester.

“As a person of color, I had felt invisible,” she says, “but at Macalester, I felt like I was seen and heard, validated.” As a student, she began volunteering as a children’s advocate at Casa de Esperanza, which works to end domestic violence in Latino families. By 1995, she was the organization’s executive director.

In 1998 Perez joined the fledgling Jeremiah Program, which last year celebrated its 15th anniversary. In that time the program, which began with 18 residential units in Minneapolis, has grown to 39 units in Minneapolis, 38 in St. Paul, and 4 in Austin, Texas, where a new 30-apartment building will open next year. Jeremiah’s annual budget, once \$650,000, is now just over \$5 million.

Before applying to the program, each applicant completes a 16-week personal empowerment course, working with a coach for guidance

and support, and enrolling in an educational program. About half of those admitted to the program end up earning a bachelor’s degree and the other half earn an associate’s degree. Pragmatism trumps following one’s bliss when choosing a program. “We are very practical about our mission—helping women advance financially,” says Perez.

To be sure, it takes money to make those transformations happen: \$25,000 in private donations per woman per year, with an average stay of three years. But the payoff to society is \$4 for every \$1 spent, through increased taxable earnings and reduced dependence on public assistance for the women and increased earnings and tax revenue, plus reduced criminal justice and special education costs for the kids. “If a mom gets a living wage job, it greatly impacts her children,” says Perez. “It changes their view of themselves and the world. When they grow up seeing their mom doing homework and meeting with a life skills coach, it becomes normal for them. This is something their own mothers almost never had.”

As news of Jeremiah’s success has spread, more and more communities are interested in establishing programs of their own. Fargo, North Dakota, is in the process of purchasing land for a building. Endicott College is collaborating with Jeremiah to bring the program to Boston. The Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York—with 80 percent single mothers—is exploring how to bring the program to families living in existing affordable housing complexes, an approach that could ultimately reach many more families.

Perez’s Macalester connections are coming into play as her organization grows. “When we first looked at collaborating in Boston, I contacted Mac alumni in the area to get the lay of the land,” says Perez. “Even though we hadn’t talked in years, Mac alumni were ready to step up and help.”

Perez’s accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. She is a fellow of the Ascend program, part of the Washington, D.C.-based Aspen Institute. She was selected as one of 20 national leaders who are pioneering solutions to multigenerational poverty. She received Macalester’s Catharine Lealtad Service to Society Award and has been honored by a host of other civic and educational organizations.

But Perez is aware that she, like her program, hasn’t done it alone. “When Jeremiah was founded by Father Michael J. O’Connell, it was a grassroots program,” says Perez. “I tell interested communities that they need the support of business, education, government, philanthropy, and faith communities if they are going to succeed.” **M**

JAN SHAW-FLAMM '76 is a staff writer for Macalester Today.

Mac Volunteers at Jeremiah

Over the last 15 years, four Mac students have interned at the Jeremiah Program and 132 have volunteered almost 7,000 hours with the program. Many have provided childcare, freeing mothers to attend classes, while others have done fundraising, grant-writing, or cooking for families on class nights.

Jeremiah Program Success

- 61 percent of women are unemployed when they enter the program.
- 90 percent of graduates are consistently employed.
- 95 percent of graduates pass their kindergarten readiness tests.
- Average wage of graduates is \$19.35 per hour, more than double the average wage of those entering the program.



BE A RAINBOW IN
SOMEONE ELSE'S CLO



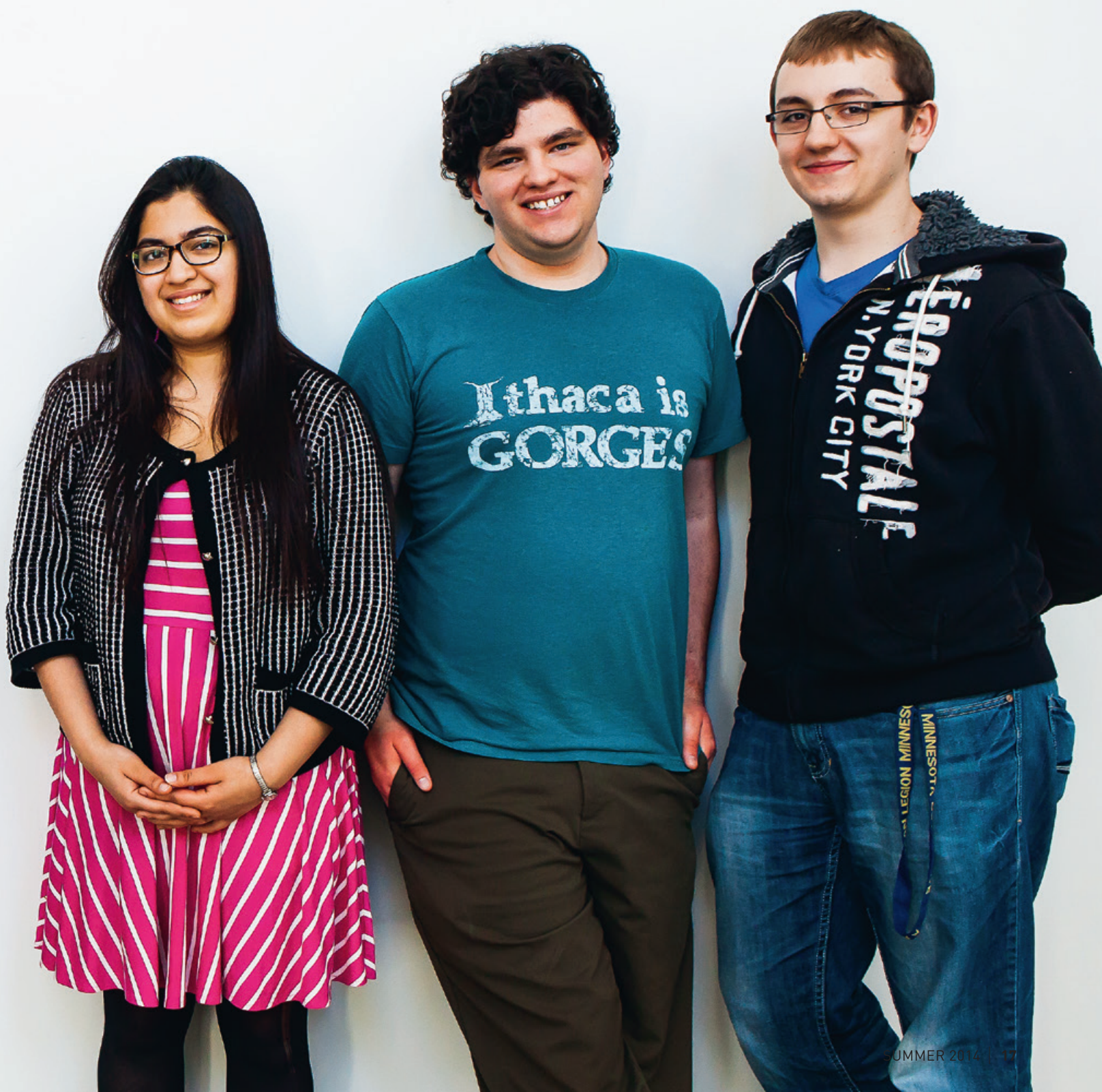
First-Gen



Long a hidden population at Macalester, first-generation college students are declaring themselves and supporting each other as never before.

BY LYNETTE LAMB → PHOTO BY CRAIG BARES

A lineup of first-generation college students at Macalester (from left) Ian Calaway '16 (Dubuque, Iowa), Jinath Tasnim '16 (Dallas, Texas), Christian Smith '15 (Menomonie, Wis.), and Tyler Skluzacek '16 (New Prague, Minn.).



Every summer of her college career, **Jocelyne Cardona '14** (San Jose, Calif.) wondered if this would be the year she couldn't afford to return to campus. "It was always a struggle to know if I could financially work it out," she says. **Melissa Larson '14** (Round Lake, Ill.) spent her college summers not traveling in Europe or racking up impressive internships but working as many hours as she could get at the nearby Six Flags amusement park. **Jinath**

Tasnim '16 (Dallas) regularly declines invitations from classmates to visit their East or West Coast homes. "There's no way I could justify that expense to my parents," she says.

Cardona, Larson, and Tasnim are members of a growing group at Macalester—those who are the first in their family to attend college, commonly called first-generation college students or First-Gens. Although the stereotypical Macalester student is the child of two financially comfortable and well-traveled faculty members—and yes, there are still plenty of those kids on campus—Mac's population of first-generation students is growing. They now make up 11 percent of the student body, says Civic Engagement Center assistant director Ruth Janisch Lake, a percentage very likely to grow in the years ahead.

The reasons for that are demographic. As a recent *Chronicle of Higher Education* article pointed out, in our nation's highest-income, highest-educated counties, the supply of younger children is dwindling. By contrast, the population of Hispanic children is growing rapidly throughout the United States, and many of those kids would be the first in their families to attend college. "Latinos and Latinas are the college students of 2020 and beyond," says Vice President of Student Affairs Laurie Hamre. "Our challenge now is to build new services for a changing demographic."

Even though their numbers are growing, First-Gens have historically been somewhat of a hidden population at Mac, says Janisch Lake. "It's an important part of people's identity but it's not the first thing they tell you about themselves," she says.

The reasons for that are fairly obvious. "Other students have traveled a lot and been exposed to literature and culture in a way very different from my own education," says Tasnim. When **Ian Calaway '16** (Dubuque, Iowa) told classmates he'd never seen mountains or an ocean, they were shocked. "It's strange being in a class where so many people's parents are college professors or top politicians," says **Tyler Skluzacek '16** (New Prague, Minn.), whose own parents are a school bus driver and a U.S. army veteran now working in a car dealership's service department.

Too, there can be a sense of guilt attending an elite college while parents back home work at physically demanding jobs. "My Dad does manual labor as an electrician while I'm at school enjoying the privilege of sitting with my thoughts," says Cardona. "That stark difference has complicated my college experience."

Then there are the economic hurdles many First-Gens must overcome. Although Macalester makes it financially feasible for low-income kids to attend college, says Multicultural Life staffer Sedric McClure, plenty of expenses remain that can put a strain on them. "Even buying books was an issue for me some semesters," says Cardona. And unlike many of their classmates, who can call on parents for extra money, First-Gens may actually be sending their own money home. That was the case for Cardona one summer, when her parents hit a rough patch and she found herself with a small surplus of funds.

More subtle but just as problematic are the casual invitations to attend a performance or to join friends for a restaurant meal. "There's a culture around here of kids suggesting that everyone go out for dinner or saying, 'Let's go to a concert this weekend,'" says Skluzacek. He has found that many of his fellow students don't realize that not everyone can afford to be cavalier with their spending money.

For her part, Tasnim is incredulous when classmates complain

about the residence halls or cafeteria food. "Being First-Gen means taking nothing for granted," she says. "I couldn't believe how nice the dorms were and how good the food was. To me it's like: all this food is here and it's free? Great!"

Another disadvantage First-Gens confront is their lack of knowledge about college in general and how it works. "It was the small things that tripped me up," says **Badhaftu Kadir '14** (St. Paul). "The first semester I didn't know you could add or drop classes. Or on the FAFSA (financial aid forms) when I applied to college: It was me trying to get information from my parents and figuring out where to put it." Skluzacek, who also did his own FAFSA, admits, "I had no idea what the difference was between a big university and a liberal arts college."

Taken together, those experiences can make the college transition feel especially difficult for First-Gen students. "I felt disempowered and didn't even have the language to navigate this space," says Cardona, who nearly

dropped out during her freshman year. "I had a hard time adjusting to the change."

Fortunately for future First-Gens, Macalester is now providing programming to help make that transition to college more comfortable. For example, last fall's orientation week marked the first time that "New to College" sessions were held for First-Gens and their parents. The students liked the program so much they chose to meet again later in the year to support and learn from one another.

Last year an equity and inclusion task force made up of students and staff met regularly to draft recommendations for improving both the admissions process and the school experience for First-Gens as well as for undocumented and immigrant students (many of whom are also First-Gen). Among the task force's recommendations: To enhance the Admissions website with Spanish and Hmong pages; to provide regular support groups; to give this group special attention at the Career Development Center; and to identify two staff people as First-Gen counselors.



Jocelyne Cardona '14 [San Jose, Calif.]

“There can be a sense of isolation and disconnection for first-generation students.”

—ROBIN HART RUTHENBECK,
Assistant Dean of Students

“There can be a sense of isolation and disconnection for first-generation students,” says assistant dean of students Robin Hart Ruthenbeck, a member of the task force. “Whenever we can, we hope to create more spaces where these students can connect with their peers.”

Two existing campus programs—Bonner Scholars and Emerging Scholars—the former designed primarily for First-Gens—are already helping. Janisch Lake and McClure, who lead these programs, offer joint programming for the groups, including a city tour and sessions on time management, library research, and using the writing center. Says Cardona, an Emerging Scholar who at year’s end was interviewing for jobs in Washington, D.C., “These support systems, including the Department of Multicultural Life, were so key in my success. I wouldn’t have felt validated and empowered without them.” DML staffers and others also help First-Gens navigate such college intricacies as what the various majors involve, how they can afford to study abroad, and where they can find paid internships.

Those internships—and the jobs they lead to—are particularly important to many First-Gens, many of whom arrive at college with an especially keen focus on earning a good living. “Some of their family members think that anyone who graduates from college is going to make a lot of money,” says McClure, himself a First-Gen. “There’s a lot of pressure on you when you’re running the first leg of the race out of poverty.” Says political science major Kadir, whose parents had a typical reaction, “They thought I should major in economics so I could get a good job.”

Faculty and staff strive to help these kids “reconcile the twin outcomes of education—learning and making a living,” as McClure puts it, while recognizing that the need to earn a decent salary is understandably more critical to them than it might be to some of their peers. “I’m the only child of an immigrant,” **Merita Bushi ’14** told the orientation group last fall. “The pressure on me fuels my drive.”

“They have a strong feeling of responsibility, and you see this job question come up really early with them,” says Janisch Lake. “As first years, not just as second-semester seniors, they’re asking, ‘How does this major translate to a career?’” Or as math and economics major Skluzacek puts it, “Ever since day one I’ve had my eye on a career. I want better for myself than what my parents had.”

On the other hand, adds Skluzacek, who is also a Bonner scholar, “The advantage of being First-Gen is that, unlike lots of kids here, I don’t have to be afraid of not measuring up to my parents’ expectations. They’re thrilled I’m going to college, period. In their eyes, there’s no difference between Macalester and Mankato State. It frees me up to operate on my own terms.”

Macalester also strives to give First-Gens the same advantages outside the classroom that their more privileged peers enjoy. For example, Bonner scholars earn their work-study money by working in off-campus nonprofits, thus allowing them to do service work while earning their pay. Advisers clue them into paid summer fellowships and internships and tell them about Gilman Scholarships, which help lower-income students finance overseas study. “Without that I wouldn’t have been able to afford to study abroad,” says **Salman Haji ’14** (Albuquerque, N.M.). “Everything is so expensive in Europe.”

Graduate school, too, can seem like an impossible dream for First-Gens, but some make it happen nevertheless. Haji, for example, with help from his professors and other campus advisers, recently won a Pickering Fellowship from the U.S. State Department that gives him two summers of work experience plus two years of tuition. As a senior, Haji balanced three jobs—as a middle school assistant, a Russian tutor, and an Arabic lab preceptor.

That willingness to work hard, by the way, tops the list of advantages enjoyed by First-Gens. “These kids have a set of experiences we don’t often celebrate but that are fundamental to success,” says Hart Ruthenbeck. “There’s a maturity in them and an ability to engage with challenges without being defeated. Unlike many of our students, they don’t look to parents to make decisions for them. They’ve had to do a lot more problem solving on their own, while still operating within the sense of support and hope from all the people back home.”

This year, for the first time, the hopes and dreams of those folks back home were celebrated at Commencement, when 100 family members of First-Gen graduates attended a gathering called Honoring the Journey. “These students have told us this is a big rite of passage for the whole family,” says Janisch Lake. “They want their families to feel especially honored at this time.” At the ceremony—and later—it was obvious that this goal had been met. As one student wrote to Hart Ruthenbeck, “Seeing my First-Gen identity celebrated, my families’ sacrifices acknowledged, and hearing beautiful speeches from fellow First-Gens gave me insight, encouragement, and bravery to continue being a bridge.”

Reflecting on those feelings, Calaway says, “I have great pride in my parents and in my situation. I come from a family where higher education, especially in the sciences, is rare. It’s untested waters. I’m excited to see where I can go and what I can do—how far can I jump?”

In the decades to come, as more and more college students are First-Gens, it will be Macalester’s challenge to help them successfully make those leaps. **M**

LYNETTE LAMB is the editor of Macalester Today.

Bonner Scholars

The Bonner Community Scholars Program is a four-year civic engagement program providing leadership programming, academic support, engagement opportunities, and a social network.

Bonner Scholars are committed not only to service, but also to learning how to be effective change agents for their campus and community. First-year Bonners earn their work-study tutoring at local public schools. Sophomore, junior, and senior Bonners earn their work-study at various Twin Cities nonprofit organizations.

Global Imaging

From lions to the Louvre, Mac students see a lot of the world when they study abroad. To celebrate their experiences and photographic talents, Campus Programs and the Library annually sponsor a Study Award Photo Contest. The contest draws dozens of entrants, which are displayed in the Campus Center and later in Markim Hall, home to the Institute for Global Citizenship. Here are some of our favorites.





Switzerland

Photo by: **Victoria Gerdts '15**

Photo taken: Grindelwald,
Switzerland

Hometown: Minneapolis

Study abroad program:
SIT: Geneva, Switzerland:
International Studies and
Multilateral Diplomacy

Spain (opposite)

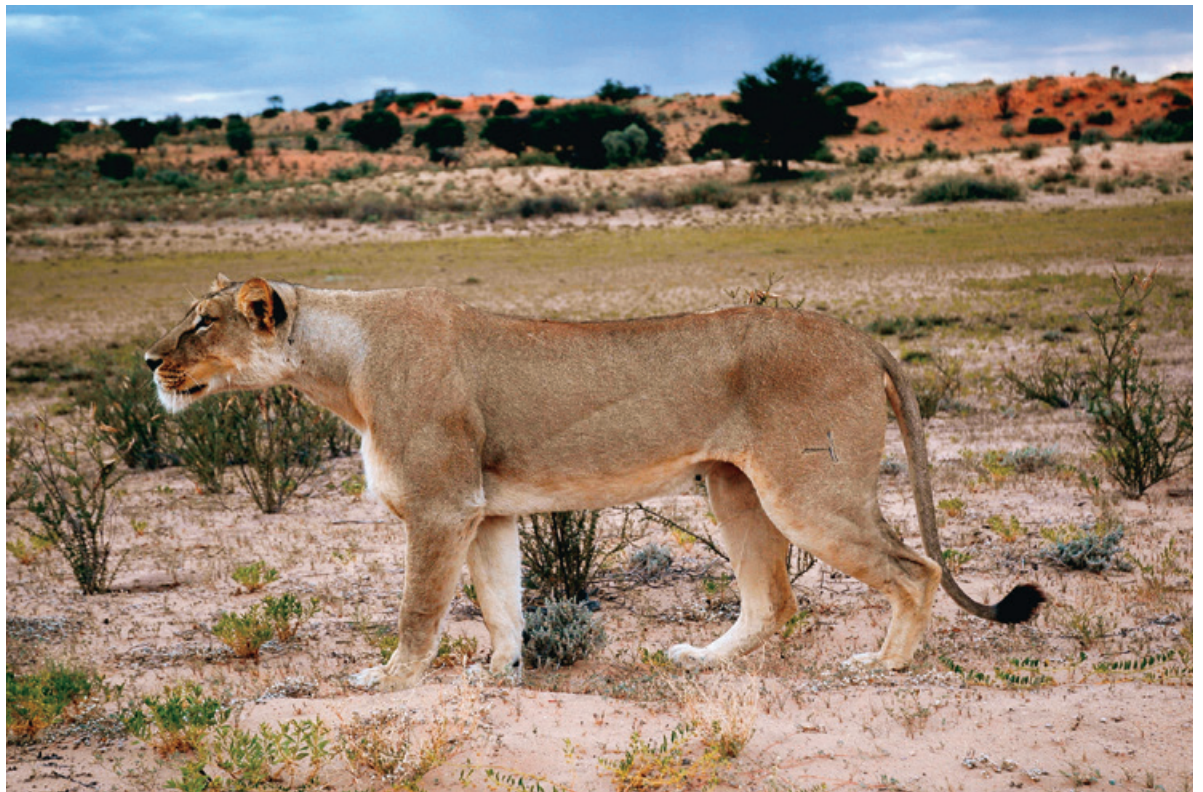
Photo by: **Alexandra
Greenler '15**

Photo taken:

Alicante, Spain

Hometown: Stoughton,
Wisconsin

Study abroad program:
CIEE Alicante, Spain:
Liberal Arts



South Africa I

Photo by: **Lucy Kane '15**

Photo taken: Kalahari Desert

Hometown: New York City

Study Abroad: University of Cape Town, South Africa

South Africa II

Photo by: **Lucy Kane '15**

Photo taken: Cape Town,
South Africa



Chile |

Photo by: **Lane Holden '15**

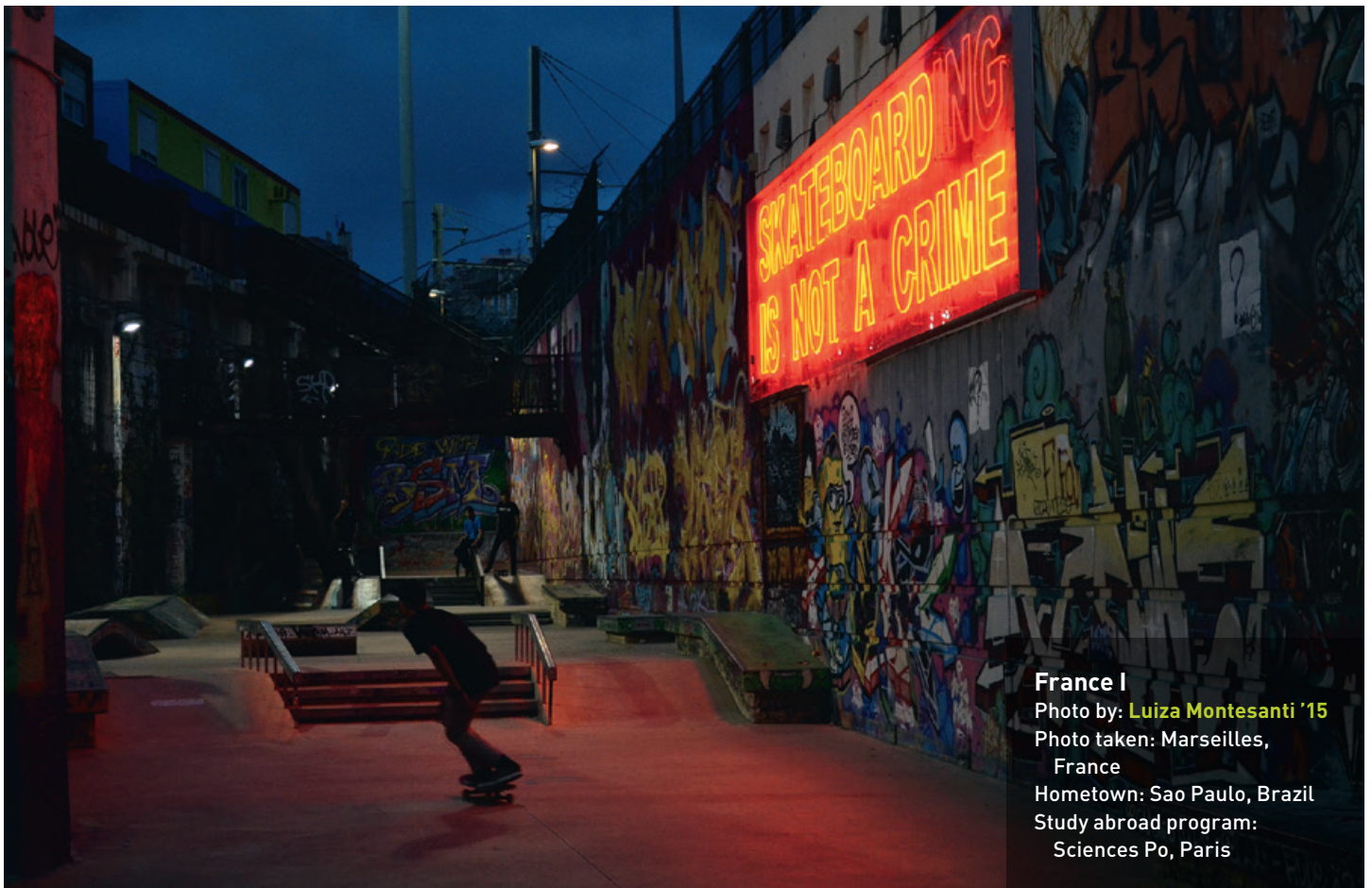
Photo taken: San Pedro de
Atacama, Chile

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

Study abroad program:

SIT Chile: Comparative
Education and Social Change





France I
Photo by: **Luiza Montesanti '15**
Photo taken: Marseilles,
France
Hometown: Sao Paulo, Brazil
Study abroad program:
Sciences Po, Paris



France II
Photo by: **Luiza Montesanti '15**
Photo taken: Paris



Nepal I

Photo by: **Elijah Wohl '15**

Photo taken: Kathmandu, Nepal
Hometown: Ithaca, New York,
Program: SIT Nepal: Tibetan
and Himalayan People



Nepal II

Photo by: **Elijah Wohl '15**

Photo taken: Kodari, Nepal



France III

Photo by: **Victoria Gerdt's '15**

Photo taken: Paris



Peru

Photo by: **Alexandra Harley '15**

Photo taken: Machu Picchu, Cusco, Peru

Hometown: Philadelphia

Program: SIT Peru: Indigenous Peoples
and Globalization

Ansel Adams Authority

A photographer since his teens,
Jim Alinder '63 is today one of the world's leading
experts on a beloved Western artist.

BY LYNETTE LAMB

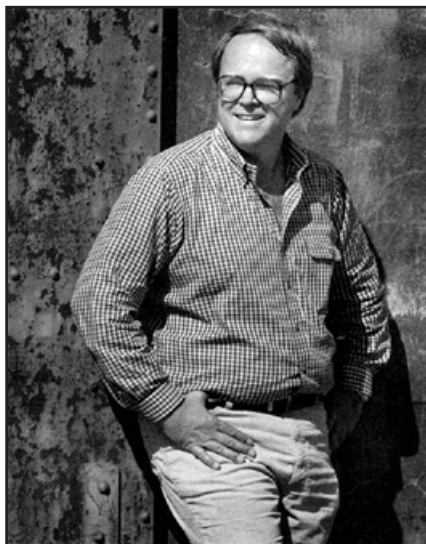
Back in the 1970s, **Jim Alinder '63** was happily working as a photography professor at the University of Nebraska and as editor of the journal of the Society for Photographic Education. In the latter capacity, he asked noted Western photographer Ansel Adams to write an article—and his life took an important turn.

Before long, Adams had asked Alinder to jury a competition for the Friends of Photography group he'd founded in Carmel, Calif., and soon asked him to become director of the fledgling organization. What followed over the next seven years—until Adams's death in 1984—was a close photographic friendship whose ripples continue even today, 30 years later.

Not only did Jim Alinder undertake photography outings with Adams and collaborate with him on the Friends of Photography, his wife, Mary Street Alinder, was Adams's chief of staff and helped the noted photographer write his autobiography. After Adams's death, the Alinders opened a gallery in Gualala, Calif.—on the coast near Sea Ranch, three hours north of San Francisco—where they mostly deal in prints by Adams.

Alinder's own photographs have been shown in exhibits all over the world and are found in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the International Museum of Photography, among many others. He has also published five books of photography, the best known of which is *The Sea Ranch* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2004, revised 2013), a study of the iconic contemporary oceanfront community where Alinder and his wife lived for many years.

Following are excerpts from an interview with Alinder, conducted in Gualala while he was between bids with a New York auction house. Says Alinder, "Sotheby's and Christie's know me well."



On his early years: I grew up in south Minneapolis and became a professional photographer at 14. By the time I was at Mac, I was taking portraits and wedding and product photos. I took pictures at the 1960s Snow Ball at Mac; I was photo editor of *The Mac Weekly* and an editor of the yearbook. I lived at home and drove to campus in a little sports car I bought with my earnings.

On life after Mac: I graduated in three years and then studied photography and political science at the University of Minnesota before going to Somalia with the Peace Corps. We were only the second unit sent to that country. It was a very different place then. My wife's father was a USAID employee in Somalia. We met there and

were married in the Mogadishu gardens of the American ambassador.

On Adams: He was the life of the party, always telling jokes and playing the piano—he was a concert pianist in his youth. He had visited Georgia O'Keeffe in New Mexico and had legendary stories about those adventures. When Mary worked for Adams, staff members could buy five prints a year at a discount. That's how I got started buying and selling Adams's prints. Now I build whole collections for people.

On the prints: Although today most Ansel Adams prints sell for between \$9,000 and \$50,000, I just sold a 16 x 20 print of *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico*, for \$62,500. (Editor's note: Adams called this "my most well-known photo.") It's still a bargain compared to what a famous painting would cost you. Ansel printed to order and the records can be hard to piece together. He made at least 1,000 prints of *Moonrise*; he made as few as half a dozen prints of other photos.


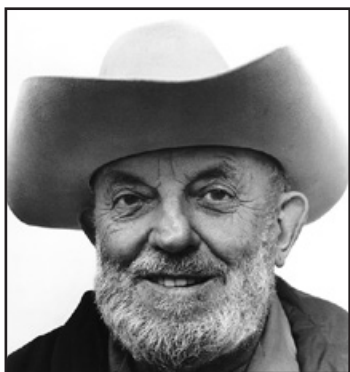
Reading about Adams: My wife, Mary, helped Ansel write his 1985 autobiography. In 1996 her own book, *Ansel Adams: A Biography*, was published by Henry Holt. A revised edition is coming out later this year. 

PHOTO: ANSEL ADAMS



Alinder and Adams (clockwise from top): Jim Alinder shown in the Alinder Gallery in Gualala, Calif., holding a print of "Aspens, Northern New Mexico, 1958" by Ansel Adams; "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico, 1941," by Ansel Adams; "Ansel Adams, Carmel, 1984," by Jim Alinder.



Staff Attachments

Professors aren't the only ones who make a big impression on Mac students.

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06

“Who are the people who aren't professors?”

Wayne Lee '14 thought about this question more with each passing year at Macalester. Yet when he arrived as a first-year student from San Francisco, “relationships with staff weren't on my radar,” he says.

Arriving in St. Paul a week early for the Bonner Scholars orientation (see page 19), though, Lee immediately connected with Sedric McClure, a Department of Multicultural Life staff member involved with the civic engagement program. Besides serving as an important mentor for Lee over four years, McClure supervised Lee as he developed—and put to work—his own mentoring skills on campus and in the community.


In other words, McClure played a big role in Lee's education—just not as a professor. “To say that Sedric has been an integral part of my time at Macalester would be a terrible understatement,” says Lee. “I've gotten tremendous support from the staff here on campus.”

He's not alone. Guidebooks may highlight college student-to-faculty ratios, and it's undoubtedly true that meaningful connections with professors have been a hallmark of a Macalester education for decades. But countless alumni can also immediately recall work-study supervisors, department coordinators, and coaches who shaped their experience as much as professors did. Partly that's because staff connections often span four years, in contrast to faculty connections that may not truly gel until after a student declares a major. Says Vice President for Student Affairs Laurie Hamre, “Staff are the constant. They have a larger capacity to open their arms a little wider.”

Who are the people who aren't professors—and how do they shape the Macalester experience?



PHOTOS BY DAVID J. TURNER

A medium shot of a Black man with a shaved head, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a dark polo shirt with vertical stripes in white and grey. The background is a warm, out-of-focus indoor setting with wooden beams. A yellow text box is in the top right corner.

Wayne Lee '14
(left) says he owes
a lot to staff men-
tor Sedric McClure,
a counselor in the
Department of
Multicultural Life.

“He taught me there’s an easy, quick way to do a task—and then there’s the right way.”

In three years of doing work-study for the media services department, **Jeff Jones '01** spent many hours coiling microphone cords. “We’d go into the longest hallway we could find, lay out the cords, and make sure they were coiled correctly, with no kinks,” he says. The purpose: to make sure the microphones were ready for the next person to use them.

Coiling microphone cords wasn’t exactly what Jones had imagined when he thought about the practical skills he’d obtain in college, but that task turned out to be part of a larger lesson passed on by his supervisor, Dave Reynolds, who schooled Jones in a blend of technical know-how and interpersonal workplace skills. “He didn’t just teach me how to use equipment, but how to maintain and respect it,” says Jones, now a Minnesota Public Radio producer. “He was teaching skills that would be valuable down the road. I understand how microphones work because of Dave, but I also understand that other people are using this equipment. Those are basic job skills I learned at Mac.”

Each year more than 1,400 Macalester students hold campus jobs, from washing dishes in Café Mac to tutoring peers. They work about 10 hours a week, and for many it’s their first real job. “There’s no course that teaches you how to operate in an office,” says **Diego Ruiz '12**, who spent four years working in Admissions. “It’s complementary to what you’re learning in the classroom.”

And those early lessons are formative ones. Working on the Campus Center’s set-up crew, **Joel Goldstein '87** absorbed management skills from supervisor Tony Bol that he still draws on today as a professor at Strayer University. In the Career Development Center, surrounded by four women she considered role models, **Marcia Nation '85**—now a project manager at Arizona State University—learned how to conduct herself professionally.

“You learn how to work by watching other people’s work ethics,” says registrar **Jayne Niemi '79**, who while a student became part of a close-knit Admissions group. “Those folks worked like the dickens, but they also brought you food and made sure you had everything you needed.” (They even took care of Niemi’s terrarium when she studied abroad.)

Many supervisors strike a similar balance—and it makes an impact. Remembering her CDC supervisors, Nation described a supportive environment where “if you were having a hard time and needed a hug, you could get one.”

Ruiz’s Admissions Department supervisors, Lucy Bauer and **Anne Walsh '80**, were “always willing to go the extra mile for us,” he says. “They wanted to help us balance everything, to make sure we were having the best college and work experience possible. They had fantastic empathy that I try to emulate in my role now” as a staffer for the education nonprofit College Possible.

“They’re not just telling you what to do—they’re empowering you.”

Beyond serving as work-study supervisors, staff members also act as sounding boards and resources for young people still figuring out what they’re passionate about and what they want to pursue at Macalester.

In those discussions, says **Eily Marlow '97**, a more mature adult’s perspective can be invaluable. “One of the hardest things about college is that the conversation is not often intergenerational,” she says. Programs such as Bonner Scholars and Lives of Commitment, a first-year program Marlow coordinates that’s focused on service and reflection, intentionally provide lots of staff interaction to offer that perspective. “We share, and we swap notes,” McClure says of those conversations. “They get to see an adult wrestle with parts of life they don’t see in a classroom setting. When I sit down and talk with people half my age, I get a glimpse into their world and they get a glimpse into mine, and that’s where transformation comes in—because of the perspective each person brings.”

Religious studies major **Abbie Shain '14** joined Lives of Commitment as a first-year student, then became a sophomore leader and later a program coordinator. Throughout those years, Marlow mentored Shain and pushed her to think about the big questions. “The common thread of my college experience is having someone ask me why I’m doing what I’m doing,” Shain says. “The whole point is to be in this place of figuring things out. People like Eily don’t just tell you what to do—they empower you as a person and tell you that they believe in you, the world is ready for you, and you have to go out and do it.”

By asking questions and listening, staff can provide students with important direction. During his first semester on campus, **Ryan Abbe '01** was homesick, so his mom suggested he find a way to get involved. He went into the Community Service Office (now the Civic Engagement Center) and started talking with staff members Betsy Hearn, Paul Schadewald, and Karin Trail-Johnson. Together they realized that his interests matched up with their plans to revive a tutoring program at a St. Paul elementary school.

Abbe went on to help run that program for four years, discovering a passion for civic engagement along the way, and found in the CSO the niche he’d been seeking. Those first conversations were memorable, he says, because staff took the time to listen to him and help him find a meaningful place for himself. “People come to Mac because they want to get involved,” he says. “Karin, Betsy, and Paul helped enable my desire to make an impact. It gave me the confidence that I could go out and do something.”

Those key student-staff relationships tie into Macalester’s broader mission, says Hamre: educating students as people, not just as intellectuals. Regardless of whether that mentoring fits into a staff member’s job description, many are drawn to work at small colleges like Macalester because of the opportunity to work closely with students, says Hamre. “For many staff, this isn’t just a job,” she says. “Everyone contributes to a student’s development.”

“Herta Pitman is my Minnesota mom.”

Sometimes the most important contribution a staff member can make concerns neither career paths nor big life questions, but instead pure caring support. For students living on their own for the first time and grappling with college’s challenges and transitions, staff members can provide such a safe space. “There’s going to be a point in every Macalester student’s life when he or she needs to be nurtured,” says Marlow. That might mean being given an office nickname, finding a staff member who acts somewhat parental, or, as Dean of Students Jim Hoppe puts it, “just having the chance to be in somebody’s living room.”

When **Jemma Brown '11** arrived in the history department, coordinator Herta Pitman began inviting her to the regular potlucks she host-

Lilly Program associate Eily Marlow '97 (left) mentored Abbie Shain '14 throughout her years at Macalester.



Broderick Grubb '73 (right) has never forgotten the help offered by staff mentor James Bennett '69. In June Grubb returned to campus to see Bennett receive an alumni award.





ed in her home for student employees. Brown was initially reluctant to go because she didn't know many people attending, "but Herta was so insistent that it lost all awkwardness," Brown says of the gatherings, for which Pitman organizes carpools and brings out board games. "She knows everyone is away from home, and she wants to bring everyone together." (Pitman also took Brown to buy a bike and later taught the Manhattan native how to drive.)

Sometimes staff members truly help students navigate college. When **Broderick Grubb '73** arrived at Macalester from southeast Texas in 1969, four staff mentors—**Earl W. Bowman Jr. '50**, Dr. John Warfield, Thad Wilderson, and **James Bennett '69**—helped him figure out how to survive and succeed in a place geographically and culturally different from anything he'd known before. These staff members of color took the time to instruct arriving students of color on how to register for classes, use the library, live and interact with other people, budget time, and seek out resources. "Some of my classmates and friends would not be here today if these men had not been on campus," Grubb says. "When you come from Philadelphia or Texas, you can't just go home at night when things aren't going right. I always felt like there was someone to go to if I needed to talk."

That extra effort, unsurprisingly, results in staff members sometimes being compared to family. "I moved halfway across the country to go to Macalester, and the Admissions support staff were like parental figures for me," Ruiz says. "It's one of those places on campus that felt like home."

Keeping in touch

Many of these student-staff connections continue beyond graduation. Grubb's mentors were so formative that 40 years after graduation he traveled to the Mac Reunion from his New Orleans home, in part to see Bennett accept an alumni award.

Ruiz's admissions supervisors helped guide him to his current work at College Possible. Abbe consulted staffer Hearn when he was apprehensive about staying in Minnesota for his first job. "I felt trepidation about recreating my whole social network, and talked to Betsy about carving out a life in Minnesota away from Macalester," Abbe says. "My department faculty helped me get the job; people like Betsy helped me survive the transition."

Staff members often enjoy the continued connections with former students as much as alumni do. **Jayne Niemi '79** began working in the Registrar's Office three days after she graduated, and over the last 35 years has maintained a comprehensive list of her work-study employees. She sees them around the neighborhood, visits them while traveling, and has even attended some of their weddings.

Many alumni who as students talked through big life questions with Marlow still check in with her for perspective on decisions they're facing. "The Mac community extends beyond these walls," Marlow says. "When you continue conversations with students past graduation, it's such a gift." **M**

REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06 worked in *College Relations* as a student and since graduation has worked in both *Admissions* and *Communications*.

Winter Warrior

Christopher Tassava '95 took on the winter's extreme cold, biking his way to seventh place in a frosty Minnesota race.

BY MARLA HOLT → PHOTOS BY MIKE RIEMER/SALSA CYCLES

In the predawn hours of the coldest day of the year, **Christopher Tassava '95** sat next to a propane heater in a tent alongside the Arrowhead Trail in northern Minnesota. He had just biked to checkpoint Number 3 of the Arrowhead 135, a grueling Minnesota ultra-marathon for skiers, runners, and bikers that starts in International Falls and ends near Tower. He was 108 miles into the endurance event and had been riding his Salsa Mukluk fat-bike—nicknamed the Beast—for 23 hours over forest snowmobile trails in temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees.

While he waited for his feet to thaw out, Tassava thought he'd post an update about his race progress, just in case "anyone cared," as he puts it. Amazingly, he got a signal on his phone, and was stunned to find more than 200 encouraging comments on Facebook. It was a moment this winter-loving cyclist—his fat-bike-related posts are followed by hashtags like #crushsnow and #outdoorsisfree—likely won't forget.

"Reading those messages was a huge boost, because I was at my physical and mental low point," Tassava says. "It was 6 a.m., I'd been up all night, and my body just wanted to shut down." The race volunteer in the tent told him, "Now you've got to finish."

When Tassava, a grant writer for Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., applied to enter the Arrowhead, he hadn't yet completed a 100-mile race on a mountain bike, so he sold himself in other ways: His ability to bike long distances (he has finished several century bicycle races on gravel) and his love of the cold, nurtured during a childhood in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He was drawn to the idea of spending hours alone deep in the woods and admits his desire to race the Arrowhead was "a bit of a macho thing."

Because "they took a chance on me," says Tassava, he was determined to finish, no matter the challenges. "Once the race directors said yes to me, I said yes to doing a good job of it."

Tassava had to hold back his elation at the start, pushing down the impulse to "hoot and holler" in order to conserve the oxygen he needed to pedal. The beauty of his surroundings struck him as he watched other bikers stretched out before him in technicolor against the stark whiteness of the woods. "It was predawn with a bit of sky glow," he says. "The opening trail was perfectly straight and I could

see all the bikes in the distance with their little red blinking lights."

Racing the Arrowhead 135 is a lonely endeavor, especially during the late night hours. Tassava occupied his mind by recalling lyrics to songs he hadn't heard in decades, thinking about what his wife and two daughters were doing at home, and calculating how far he was from the next checkpoint.

He also constantly evaluated his body parts for feeling. His fogged-up goggles were useless, so he worried that his contacts might freeze to his eyeballs. They didn't, but he ended up with a frostbitten nose and cheeks because his numb fingers couldn't feel where he'd applied face-protecting cream. At some point, the ice hanging off his beard became so thick that Tassava couldn't open his mouth to eat. He broke off some

of the ice, taking a few whiskers along with it. Instead of being horrified by that, it became a point of pride. "How many people can say their faces froze shut?"

The last leg of the race was the toughest. Chafing and insufficient padding made sitting on his bike excruciatingly painful, so Tassava resorted to pedaling standing up. "It wasn't easy, because my legs were dead," he says. His mind was bit muddled, too, making it difficult for him to perform simple tasks like reading the map and adding up miles. "Everything got fuzzy," he says. "You know you're thinking really slowly, but you can't figure out how to think faster."

Toward the end, Tassava bargained with himself, trading 10 steps for a pause to take 10 breaths. He walked his bike up the hills. "I knew every step I took, no matter how short, no matter how weak my pedal stroke was, got me closer to the finish," he says.

Twenty-nine hours and nine minutes after he started, Tassava tipped over in the snow just beyond the finish line, overcome by fatigue but aware he'd just completed one of the peak experiences of his life. He finished in seventh place, one of only 30 bikers (along with 16 runners and one skier out of 142 entrants) to complete the race. Tassava's success made him eager to try other endurance events. And next winter will find him right back at Arrowhead, hoping to ride faster—and likely with even more friends cheering him on. ■



MARLA HOLT is a freelance writer living in Owatonna, Minn.





Christopher Tassava '95 (opposite) all iced up during a 135-mile race in northern Minnesota and (this page) a month later tackling a 200k race in Idaho.

BACK TO THE BUBBLE

BY **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE '73**, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



I recently came across an article proposing that people value experiences more than they value things. A once-in-a-lifetime trip creates lasting memories and often influences the rest of our lives. A new car, even a fast and fancy one, does not have the same long-lasting effect. The research further suggests that over the long run experiences make people happier than pos-

sessions because the memories keep providing happiness long after we've grown accustomed to the car. Experiences contribute to our happiness in a way material possessions do not.

When we talk about our time at Macalester it's the experiences, the lifelong friends, the faculty, and the events that we remember. We think of the easy conversations about important matters, the culture of critical thinking, and the daily exposure to interesting speakers and art. We did not all share the same viewpoint, but we all had passionate points of view. The Macalester campus culture is about positive change, about making the world a better place, and endless discussions about how wrongs can be righted. We got used to that environment and the underlying optimism that seemed to be in the very air. What we didn't know then, but certainly know now, is what a *unique* experience it was.

It was shocking to leave campus and discover how much harder it is to acquire those kinds of experiences in the real world. After Mac we found that the culture we live and work in is not always value based, that not everyone wants a robust discussion about toxic charity or climate change or the nature of art. Some workplaces still offer plastic bottles of water. It's harder to get to an art opening or a concert, and our priorities shift as the daily responsibilities of making a living and caring for our families assume more importance.

But here's the good news: the Macalester community is still here and your membership remains active. You can go back to the bubble even if you live thousands of miles away. Here's how:


MacDirect: We've redesigned the online directory at macalester.edu/macdirect, and made it so easy to use that even the most techno-

logically challenged can handle it. Through MacDirect you can find your friends through sorting by city, class year, major, occupation, and employer. You can update your contact information, see your giving record, and find out about upcoming alumni events in your area. You can volunteer and identify yourself as someone willing to talk to students about careers. Macbassador volunteers get an extra cool "loves Mac" light-up icon on their profile page. MacDirect is password protected, and there are only Macalester alumni in this online community.

Macbassador: Yes, you can volunteer for Macalester even if you don't live near St. Paul: work for Admissions, send a MacMail postcard to a graduating senior, serve as a class agent, or identify yourself as a career helper (see MacDirect)—all these are ways you can connect with current students. For more information, go to macalester.edu/alumni/macbassador.

Macalester College Alumni College offers wonderful travel experiences, an annual campus summer session, and a lively online catalog of short lectures and videos. Tune in during your lunch hour to macalester.edu/academics/writewell and brush up on your writing skills with a two-minute refresher course from one of our best professors

Come on Over: You definitely have an advantage if you live in the Twin Cities area, which about a third of our alumni do. You can join the Leonard Center and use the beautiful fitness center. You can get a library card, reserve the Alumni House for a family occasion, or attend lectures, performances, games, and other Macalester events. A daily calendar of events is online.

Reunion: The best way to get back to the bubble is to return for the annual great Macalester get-together, Reunion. If you were here in June you know what I'm talking about. The energy is positive, the conversations are passionate, the faculty members are eloquent, and our fellow alumni are inspiring. It's a renewal of your membership in the Mac community and an affirmation of what you already know: This place is still part of you, and you are still part of Macalester. 



Class Agent

As a fundraiser herself, **Sarah Johanneson Clark '86** has long known that giving is vital. She has been a regular contributor to Macalester College ever since her graduation.

But it wasn't until shortly after her 25th reunion, in a conversation with an Annual Fund staffer, that the importance of regular giving truly hit home.

"She told me that annual giving was a sign of customer satisfaction," remembers Clark, "And I am such a satisfied customer!"

So it was that Clark became a sustainer—someone who gives annually to the college—as well as an agent for the Class of 1986. Now she regularly reminds her classmates to demonstrate their own "customer satisfaction" by giving back to Mac.

As a graduate of St. Paul Academy, a resident of the Cro-

cus Hill neighborhood, a parent at the nearby Friends School, and the director of partner relations for St. Paul-based Fresh Energy, Clark is very tied into the community. "I run into Mac grads all the time and we always talk about what a great experience we had," says Clark. "Yet too many still don't contribute to Mac. I always ask," she laughs. "And if they say they don't give, well, I make my pitch."

In Memoriam

1934

Leone Wright Conklin, 100, of Cook, Minn., died April 10, 2014. Mrs. Conklin is survived by two daughters, eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandson.

1938

Margarete Wahlers Carlson, 97, died Feb. 11, 2014, in Portland, Ore. Mrs. Carlson is survived by a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, twin sister **Henrietta Wahlers Mack '38**, and a brother.

Charlotte Mattson Lejonhud, 98, of San Luis Obispo, Calif., died March 27, 2014. She is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1939

LaReine Beavens Butler, 96, died March 15, 2014. She was a prize-winning knitter. Mrs. Butler is survived by three daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren, and a brother.

1941

May Bellerud Mauritsen, 94, died Feb. 17, 2014. Mrs. Mauritsen is survived by two daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Arthur E. Meisel, 95, of Richfield, Minn., died Feb. 17, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and worked in sales. Mr. Meisel is survived by a daughter, a son, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

1943

Elmer L. Whyte, 96, of Rockford, Ill., died March 12, 2014. Mr. Whyte is survived by his wife, Naomi, a daughter, five grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Barbara Davis Williams, 92, of Alexandria, Va., died March 9, 2014. She is survived by two sons, four granddaughters, and seven great-grandchildren.

1944

Doris Struthers Lundberg, 95, of Detroit Lakes, Minn., died Feb. 27, 2014. Mrs. Lundberg is survived by her husband, Edwin, two daughters, two sons, and five grandchildren.

1946

Noah S. Rosenbloom, 89, died Jan. 15, 2014, in New Ulm, Minn. He is survived by his wife, Janet, two daughters, two sons, six grandchildren, and a brother.

1947

Clarence C. Mondale, 87, of Washington, D.C., died May 2, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Mr. Mondale was a faculty member at the University of Minnesota and the University of Alabama, whose American studies program he founded in 1962. He joined the faculty of George Washington University in 1965 and retired as professor of American civilization in 1992. A leader in the American studies movement and a specialist in regional identity, Mr. Mondale co-wrote the book *Region and Regionalism in the United States: A Source Book for the Humanities and Social Sciences*. He also led a Peace Corps training program at GWU and coordinated the Poor People's University at the institution in 1968. Mr. Mondale is survived by his wife, Virginia, seven children, 13 grandchildren, and two brothers (including **Walter Mondale '50**).

Ronald W. Powers, 91, of Olympia, Wash., died Feb. 21, 2014.

1948

Richard T. Peterson, 91, of Maplewood, Minn., died Jan. 16, 2014. He was principal of Boy's Totem Town for many years. Mr. Peterson is survived by a daughter, two grandchildren, and a sister.

Norma Zwerenz Pippin, 88, died March 19, 2014. She is survived by three daughters, two sons, 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and sister **Virginia Zwerenz Anderson '51**.

Patricia Joslyn Steele, 87, died Jan. 23, 2014, in Naples, Fla. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, four grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Frances Watts Torbeck, 87, of Bandon, Ore., died Jan. 17, 2014. Mrs. Torbeck is survived by two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

1949

Robert Myhre, 87, of Alamo, Calif., died April 6, 2014. Mr. Myhre is survived by his wife, Betty, four children, and four grandchildren.

Carolyn Giffei Spencer, 86, died March 26, 2014. She was a teacher in the Ettrick and Galesville, Wis., schools for 25 years. Mrs. Spencer is survived by four sons, three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1950

Milton R. Rathke, 87, of Salisbury, N.C., died Nov. 29, 2013.

Eugene C. Zwickey, 86, died Aug. 22, 2013, in Moose Lake, Minn. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren.

1951

Alfred E. Wetterlin, 85, of Prior Lake, Minn., died Nov. 2, 2012. Mr. Wetterlin is survived by his wife, **Dorothy Woetovech Wetterlin '51**, two daughters, three sons, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1952

Della Arbeiter Dibley, 83, of Tracy, Calif., died April 3, 2014. She led and was an active volunteer in several organizations in Livermore, Calif. Mrs. Dibley is survived by her husband, Leland, daughter **Allison Dibley '83**, three sons, two grandsons, a sister, and a brother.

1953

Mabel Lou Ahrens, 82, of La Crescent, Minn., died April 8, 2014. She taught journalism and English at high schools in Mankato, Minn., and Chicago. Mrs. Ahrens is survived by her husband, Bud, a daughter, a son, and two granddaughters.

Arthur J. Hausker, 88, of Tinton Falls, N.J., died March 7, 2014. Mr. Hausker is survived by his wife, Beverly, a daughter, two sons, nine grandchildren, and two sisters (including **Evelyn Hausker Wood '47**).

Nance Skibness Larson, 81, of Fridley, Minn., died March 14, 2013. She is survived by a daughter, a son, five grandchildren, and a brother.

Joanne Porter Meehan, 82, of Minneapolis died March 15, 2014. Mrs. Meehan is survived by two daughters and a granddaughter.

John C. Midler, 85, died April 2, 2014, in Libertyville, Ill. He served in the Army Air Force Reserve at the end of World War II and worked for General Mills and Archer Daniels Midland. Mr. Midler is survived by his wife, Janice, a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.

Joyce E. Peltzer, 82, of Cottonwood, Minn., died May 12, 2014. Ms. Peltzer received a Distinguished Citizen Award from Macalester in 1993. Ms. Peltzer is survived by her wife, Sandra Aronen, two sons, and four grandchildren.

Mary Whetstone Pfiffner, 83, died April 1, 2014. She taught first through third grades in La Verne, Calif. Mrs. Pfiffner is survived by three sons and four grandchildren.

1954

Paul L. Doerring, 82, of Hilton Head Island, S.C., died March 29, 2014. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, and three grandchildren.

Joy Lessard Stubblefield, 79, died Dec. 14, 2013, in Appleton, Wis. Mrs. Stubblefield is survived by her husband, Bob, two daughters, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Ronald D. Yee, 86, of Burnsville, Minn., died June 25, 2013.

1955

Jeanne Ledue Lindell, 80, died Feb. 10, 2014, in Green Valley, Ariz. Mrs. Lindell is survived by her husband, John, a daughter, two sons (including **Tommy Lindell '87**), three grandchildren, and a sister.

1957

Donald G. Wachholz, 82, of Minocqua, Wis., died May 3, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Nadine, two sons, four grandchildren, and two sisters.

1958

Jerry K. Fisher, 77, died May 8, 2014. After serving as an instructor of history at Carroll College, Mr. Fisher joined Macalester's faculty in 1969. He was promoted to professor of history in 1984 and professor of humanities and media and cultural studies and history in 1991. Mr. Fisher developed cultural programming and exchange programs with institutions in Japan and founded Macalester's Japanese language and East Asian Studies programs. He also consulted for more than 20 years with Hubbard Broadcasting Group, which helped launch satellite broadcasting industries in numerous Asian nations, and led a Japanese television team in the production of an award-winning documentary film. Mr. Fisher is survived by his wife, Aiko, a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and a sister.

William O. Schumacher, 83, of Savannah, Ga., died Sept. 14, 2013. He served in Air Force intelligence in Germany and Austria from 1951 to 1955. He retired as city administrator with the City of Savannah. Mr. Schumacher is survived by his wife, Gladys, two daughters, three sons, 20 grandchildren, and a brother.

1959

Virginia Dahleen Brooks, 85, of Charlottesville, Va., died April 9, 2014. After teaching kindergarten and first grade in Wisconsin for several years, she began working as a stewardess for Northwest Orient Airlines. She and her husband, Macalester classics Professor Edward Brooks, were generous donors to Macalester. Mrs. Brooks was a Macalester trustee and a board member and chair of numerous other organizations. She is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, and a sister.

Beverly Poeschl Thomas, 87, of Edina, Minn., died April 4, 2014. She worked in the home service department of General Mills as the Betty Crocker correspondent and taught English at Richfield Junior High School from 1954 until her retirement in 1986.

1960

William C. Cassel, 82, died Feb. 5, 2014, in Duluth, Minn.

1961

Donald R. Taylor, 83, of St. Cloud, Minn., died April 13, 2014. He worked in hospitals in Winona, Minn., and Dubuque, Iowa, and retired from the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud in 1994. Mr. Taylor is survived by his wife, Sheila, five children, 22 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and a sister.

John S. Twohig, 81, of Shoreview, Minn., died June 8, 2013. Mr. Twohig is survived by his wife, Ruthanne, three daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren, and a brother.

1962

Marcia Wyatt Hokanson, 73, of Edina, Minn., died March 15, 2014. She taught mathematics in Mounds View, St. Louis Park, and Robbinsdale, Minn., and served as a private math tutor for many years in the Edina schools. Mrs. Hokanson is survived by her husband, Bob, two sons (including **James Hokanson '94**), three grandchildren, and a brother.

Wayne C. Johnson, 83, died March 10, 2014. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War and taught elementary school in St. Paul for 24 years. He was a member of the Gloria Dei Choir for 61 years and the Swedish Male Chorus for more than 30 years. Mr. Johnson is survived by two sisters.

1963

Carol M. Erwin, 72, died March 12, 2014, in Brownsville, Texas. After serving for many years as a surgeon in the U.S. Navy in California, the Philippines, Guam, and Florida, she entered private practice in Brownsville. Ms. Erwin is survived by two children.

Roger D. Reinitz, 72, of Davenport, Iowa, died April 24, 2014. Mr. Reinitz is survived by his wife, Mary, two sons, and five grandchildren.

1965

Calvin R. Chadwick, 71, died April 19, 2014. Mr. Chadwick is survived by his wife, Beverley, three daughters, seven grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

1966

Robert S. Lawrence, 70, of Edina, Minn., died Jan. 22, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Judy, a daughter, two grandchildren, a sister, a brother, and former wife **Leslie Hart Lawrence '67**.

1967

Ann Baur Larson, 77, of Des Moines, Iowa, died April 26, 2014. Mrs. Larson is survived by a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

Margaret R. Reed, 66, died Nov. 13, 2011, in Tallahassee, Fla. Ms. Reed is survived by a brother.

1968

Jon K. Echternacht, 68, of River Falls, Wis., died March 29, 2014. Mr. Echternacht is survived by his wife, Jeannie, and two sisters (including **Jane Echternacht Hallas '70**).

Larry J. Larson, 69, died March 28, 2014. Mr. Larson is survived by his wife, **Pamela Homme Larson '69**, a son, and a sister.

Ruth Norling Lysne, 74, of Northfield, Minn., died Jan. 5, 2014. Mrs. Lysne is survived by her husband, Donald, daughter **Lisa Lysne '88**, a son, and three grandchildren.

1969

Douglas C. Corcoran, 66, died April 1, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Jeannie, two daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, three sisters, and a brother.

Don M. Sederberg, 69, died Dec. 14, 2013. Mr. Sederberg is survived by a sister and brother.

1970

Linda Betsworth Maro, 66, of Moline, Ill., died March 27, 2014. She is survived by her husband, Nick, her mother, and two brothers.

1971

Lee A. Entwisle, 69, of Brooklyn, N.Y., died Feb. 21, 2014.

Margaret M. Falk, 61, died Oct. 3, 2011. She is survived by her husband, Geoffrey Brown, two daughters, a sister, and a brother.

Karin R. Werness, 64, died Nov. 6, 2013, in Houston. Ms. Werness is survived by a sister and brother **Peter Werness '69**.

1974

Ann M. Arends, 62, of Eugene, Ore., died Nov. 15, 2013.

Oatmon K. King, 62, of Mount Olive, N.C., died Feb. 8, 2014.

Beverly A. McNeilly, 62, died March 21, 2014. Ms. McNeilly is survived by her husband, Peter Currer, a daughter, her mother, a sister, and a brother.

1975

Carol J. Mike, 61, of Los Angeles died March 14, 2014. She worked as a graphic designer and news editor for a Walt Disney Studios/ABC affiliate in Burbank, Calif. Ms. Mike is survived by three sisters.

Kenneth F. Niemi, 60, died May 2, 2014, in London, England. He worked for the Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training for many years and was named the department's chief information officer in 1992. In 1998 he became vice chancellor for information technology and chief information officer for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. After retiring in 2009, he served for a year as vice president of technology strategy for the Midwest Higher Education Compact. Mr. Niemi is survived by his wife, **Andrea Greene Niemi '73**, a son, his mother, and brother **Kevin Niemi '78**.

1976

Terry J. Rosendahl, 62, of Sebastopol, Calif., died March 21, 2014. Mr. Rosendahl is survived by a son, his father, and two brothers.

1977

Jan Wilchins Harrod, 58, died March 4, 2014. She is survived by three children, three grandchildren, and her mother.

Food Lover

BY JUNITA GUSTAFSON BOGNANNI '03

I USED TO HAVE A NICE OFFICE JOB. I worked for a publishing company with intelligent colleagues, a reasonable schedule, and a collection of succulent plants near my desk. And books! As many free books as my shelves could bear. If my English major was a Choose Your Own Adventure novel, I'd finally come to the end of it by landing a job in my field. Only the story wasn't over ... because I fell in love with cookbooks.

Like an addict looking for a fix, I'd walk over to the public library on my lunch break to scan the new releases. Soon I started making requests, visiting twice a week to pick them up. I'd page through my borrowed cookbooks at night, snug under the covers, dreaming about tarts and pies.

This went on for two years. It's embarrassing how long I suppressed my not-so-secret love for food. I finally decided the only way forward was to leap into the unknown. I quit my publishing job, moved to New York to attend culinary school, and took every internship opportunity I could find.

Since I hit the professional reset button, I've worked as a pastry cook, recipe tester, food stylist, baking blogger, cooking instructor, and writer. There's been an undeniable thrill to starting from scratch—a freedom in trying on so many different hats in the name of discovery. Each job propelled me a little further down my culinary path.

But this Choose Your Own Adventure story just wouldn't quit, because a letter had arrived that changed everything. My husband won a yearlong fellowship to the American Academy in Rome. Without a moment's hesitation we decided that, of course, I would join him. Then I discovered the Rome Sustainable Food Project.

The RSFP is a unique program designed by Alice Waters. It's a sincere, passionate mission to source the best seasonal food within a small radius of Rome and transform it into a week's worth of delicious meals for the Fellows of the American Academy. Interns work alongside experienced chefs to prepare lunch and dinner, while maintaining the academy's kitchen garden. By sourcing the very best ingredients from a network of nearby organic farms, the RSFP creates seasonal, sustainable, nutritious food inspired by classic Roman cuisine.

On paper, this internship sounded perfect. So why did it thrill and terrify me in equal measure? Because cooking in a savory kitchen was way out of my comfort zone. I had studied pastry in culinary school. Soufflés I can handle. Wedding cakes? No problem. But the thought of cooking pasta for 60 made my stomach churn. After all the limbs I've climbed out on during my career change, I've come to recognize the stomach butterflies as a telltale sign. Whatever I'm afraid of is often the thing most worth doing. So I went for it.

By day eleven of my internship I found myself making pasta. I knew it as soon as I heard the word *Amatriciana* during that morning's menu meeting. It's my favorite Roman pasta sauce. The ingredients are



simple and few: *guanciale* (cured pork jowl), tomatoes, and red pepper flakes. The perfect trinity of salt, sugar, and spice. It had to be mine.

Yet how can I properly express the terror of preparing pasta for an academy lunch? Each day there is an array of beautiful seasonal salads, but the pasta is arguably the most important thing on the table. Sure, there are crazy dieters who skip the starch, but almost everyone takes a little. It comes out fresh and hot, with a prominent place at the head of the buffet. It's the last thing to come out of the kitchen and the first thing people see.

It's just pasta, I told myself as I volunteered that morning.

Here's what I learned. To make *Amatriciana*, pass a jar of San Marzano tomatoes through a food mill. Chop the *guanciale* into thick slices, heat some oil in a pot, and sauté it until the fat is rendered and the *guanciale* goes from translucent to an unmistakable brown; the smell is amazing. Season with red pepper flakes, then add the milled tomatoes. Bring the sauce nearly to a boil, then simmer slowly until the bright red color turns to rust. Cook your pasta of choice in very salty boiling water until al dente. Reserve a little water, then drain and add the pasta directly to the sauce.

Now, comes the moment of truth. To make a good *Amatriciana*, you must toss the pasta with the sauce until it's completely coated. The sauce should be shiny and glistening. They say it's all in the wrist, but it's really all in the head. Only the fearless will dare to make the pasta leap up and out of the bowl. But it's the only way. It's all or nothing, either in the bowl or on the floor.

Don't be afraid. It's just pasta. **M**

JUNITA GUSTAFSON BOGNANNI '03 is a freelance writer and food stylist. For more about the Rome Sustainable Food Project go to cannolipepperoni.com.

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PHOTO: DAVID J. TURNER

The weather was beautiful for 2014 Reunion class dinners the evening of June 7.